天命

Fios Caiseal
A Twee and Insubstantial Book of Celtic Wisdom

Compiled by
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Rí Mumhan

Grandson of Rita O'Kieffe Brown and
Kathryn 'Don't Call Me Cathern' O'Dunn Cole

for Tlachtga, Anastasia, Aoibhinn
Merry Christmas, mo Chlann.

Ó-Kieffe of the handsome brown brows
Is chief of Irluachair of the fertile lands
.
Domini est salus , Christi est salus.
Super populum tuum, Domine, benedictio tua.
Solk us from the taddy.

Ní chronaítear an tobar go dtrá sé.
The well isn’t missed until it dries up.

Now, if we are to become Irish again...our young people must be made familiar with the proverbs which have been the heritage and the helpmates of unnumbered generations of our ancestors ; they must be encouraged to use them and keep them alive, and hand them down to future generations. Énrí Ua Muirgheasa (sp), 1907, Seanfhocla Uladh

In these Gaelic proverbs, there is plain and consistent inculcation of the virtues of truthfulness, honesty, fidelity, self-restraint, self-esteem, sense of honour, courage, caution, in word and deed, generosity, hospitality, courtesy, peaceableness, love of kindred, patience...providence. There are none to be found excusing or recommending selfishness, cunning...or any other form of vice or meanness. Alexander Nicolson, 1882

Is treise dúchas na oiliúint
Nature is stronger than programming.

Trí cumtaig gáisse: immed n-eolais, lín fássach, dagaigni do airbirt.
Three ornaments of wisdom: abundance of knowledge, a number of precedents, to employ a good counsel.

When English landed on our shores, they reveled in the thought of gaining what they couldn't have in England – Land. It was an instant clash of cultures. The English thought that owning land was perfectly normal. The People indigenous to the land did not.
-Nipmuc Nation Elders Council

Bérla Féine Hérenn: Corcach.
The Legal Speech of Ireland: Cork.

[W]hen the children don't know their culture, that's when they get lost. Even adults get lost and get involved with things that are destructive to themselves and their bodies or to other people…
Nakia Zavalla, Cultural Director at Santa Ynez Band of Chumash First Nation

Lámh fhoisteannach abú.

Mullach abú.

"If you're after getting the honey, hey Then you don't go killing all the bees."
Joe Strummer

It is not the Ireland of old that we have to-day. But an Ireland of English speech, and English pride, An Ireland without strength, and in misery extreme. An Ireland without Irish, and without love for poetry
Peter Galligan, 1907.

Life is deep and simple, and what our society gives us is shallow and complicated.
Fred McFeely Rogers

Now if you find a highly thoughtful people transmitting crystallized thought through many hundreds of generations down to our day and time, from the very dawn of human knowledge I must ask you where can you expect to find truth if it is not there...In this way they left us incomparably the finest body of Proverbs upon the face of the earth. If we had nothing but these Proverbs to our Gaelic name we are an extremely rich people...
The Gaelic Concepts of Life and of Death. BY H. CAMERON GILLIES, M.D. Dundee Highland Society PROPAGANDA PAMPHLETS No. 1, 1913

Is aoibhinn dán draoithe is dáimh
It is lovely, the druid's gift, it is filial piety, healthy family affection.

We honor our parents by carrying their best forward and laying the rest down. By fighting and taming the demons that laid them low and now reside in us.
Bruce Springsteen

Dhá thrian den obair í an chosúlacht.
Two thirds of the work is the semblance.

Is fearr beagán den ghaol ná mórán den charthanas.
A little relationship is better than a lot of charity

We are going to emancipate ourselves from mental slavery, for though others may free the body, none but ourselves can free the mind.
Marcus Ó Garvey

I had that stubborn streak, the Irish in me I guess.
Gregory Peck

They tried to forget about us. Geographically isolated from each other and even further from wider society which let us know with every encounter just how uncomfortable our presence made the dominant culture.
Dara Quigley, They Tried to Bury Us

I can't think of a place on the planet I would rather claim as my roots more than Ballyporeen, County Tipperary. My great-grandfather left here in a time of stress, seeking to better himself and his family. From what I'm told, we were a poor family. But my ancestors took with them a treasure, an indomitable spirit that was cultivated in the rich soil of this county. And today I come back to you as a descendant of people who are buried here in paupers' graves. Perhaps this is God's way of reminding us that we must always treat every individual, no matter what his or her station in life, with dignity and respect…"
Ronald Ó Reagan

I don't want no peace
I need equal rights and justice
Péadar mac an Taoiseach

I think that at the start of a game, you're always playing to win, and then maybe if you're ahead late in the game, you start playing not to lose. The true competitors, though, are the ones who always play to win.
Tom Ó Brady

Ceithre báis breithe: a breith i ngó, a breith cen dílse, a breith cen ailig, a breith cen fhorus.
The four deaths of judgment: to give it in falsehood, to give it without forfeiture, to give it without precedent, to give it without knowledge.

Shaghyn dagh olk.
Avoid all evil.

Easht lesh dagh cleaysh, eisht jean briwnys
Listen with each ear, then to judgment.

Nerth gwlad, ei gwybodaeth.
The strength of a nation is its knowledge

Maireann an chraobh ar an bhfál ach ní mhaireann an lámh do chuir
The branch lives on the hedge though the hand that planted it be dead.

Ní féidir an dubh a chur ina gheal ach seal.
You can only deny the truth for a while.

An té a bhíonn siúlach bíonn sé scéalach.
Who travels has stories to tell.

Bainne nan gobhar fo chobhar ’s e blàth, ’s e chuireadh an spionnadh sna daoine a bha.
It is the milk of the goat foaming and warm, that gave the strength to the past generations of people.

Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.
George Orwell, 1984

An té a bhíonn thuas óltar deoch air. An té a bhíonn thíos buailtear cos air.
When you're up, they drink to you. When you're down, they kick you.

Níl fuaim ó shoitheach a chroithtear má tá sé lán le huisce.
A vessel filled with water does not make a noise when shaken
Sinhala, Srí Lanca

The mainstream feminist movement is supposed to have started in the early 1900s with women fighting for the right to vote. However, these white women deliberately excluded the struggles of working class women of color and participated in the policy of forced sterilization for Aboriginal women and women with disabilities.
Erin Konsmo

Filleann an feall ar an bhfeallaire.
The treachery returns to the betrayer.
The bad deed returns to the bad-deed doers.

Tell him, let him be merciful, just, impartial, conscientious, firm, generous, hospitable, honourable, stable, beneficent, capable, honest, well-spoken, steady, true-judging.
Audacht Morainn, translated by Fergus Ó Kelly

Don’t tek a six for a nine.”
Proverb from Barbados

Ní tír gan teanga.
There is no nation without a language.

Beatha teanga í a labhairt.
It's the life of a language to speak it.

Súahílis:
Atakaye kufuga ng’ombe aanze na kuku.
Ba chóir don té ar mhaith leis bó a chothú tosnú le cearc.
One who would like to raise a cow should start with a hen.

Ní thuigeann an sách an seang.
The well-fed does not understand the lean

Is glas na cnoic i bhfad uainn.
Distant hills look green

Ní lia duine ná barúil.
There are as many people as opinions.

Bailíonn brobh beart.
A little gathers to a lot.

Is maith an t’ancoire an t-iarta.
The hearth is a good anchor.

Goreu heddychydd — gwir.
Best peacemaker — truth.

Trí chuil túaithe: flaith bréagach, breitheamh gúach, sagart colach.
Three tribal vetos: false chief, untruthful judge, impious priest.

Ge milis a’ mhil, cò dh’imlicheadh o bhàrr dri i?
Cibé milis an mhil, ní líochtar ó bharr na ndriseach í.
Honey may be sweet, but no-one licks it off a briar.

An t-uan ag múineadh méilí dá mháthair.
The lamb teaching its mother how to bleat.

Ná bí róbheag is ná bí rómhór leis an gcléir.
Don't be too small and don't be too big with the clergy.

Is deacair rogha a bhaint as dhá dhíogha.
It's difficult to choose between two evils.

Sierra Leone, Krio:
Is féidir le craobha ginéalaigh lúbadh ach ní bhriseann siad.
The family tree may bend, but it never breaks.

Trí adcoillet gáis: anfis, doas, díchuimne.
Three things that ruin wisdom: ignorance, inaccurate knowledge, forgetfulness.

Tréde ara carthar escara: máin, cruth, innraccus.
Three things for which an enemy is loved: wealth, beauty, worth.

Trí doruis gúa: tacra fergach, fotha n-utmall n-eolais, aisnéis cen chuimni.
Three doors of falsehood: an angry pleading, a shifting foundation of knowledge, giving information without memory.

Trí búada insci: fosta, gáis, gairde.
Three glories of speech: steadiness, wisdom, brevity.

Trí cumtaig gáisse: immed n-eolais, lín fássach, dagaigni do airbirt.
Three ornaments of wisdom: abundance of knowledge, a number of precedents, to employ a good counsel.

Triúr fear go dteipeann orthu mná a thuiscint:
fír óga, fir aosta agus fir mhéanaosta.
Three kinds of men who fail to understand women:
young men, old men and middle-aged men.

Ní cleas é go ndéantar trí huaire é.
It isn't a trick until it is done three times.

Bíonn dhá insint ar scéal agus dhá leagan déag ar amhrán.
There are two versions to a story and twelve arrangements to a song.

Tri saoghal fhada : saoghal an iubhair, saoghal an iolra, saoghal na Callighe Bhéara .
Three great ages : the age of the yew tree, the age of the eagle, the age of Cailleach Beara.

Breithnigh an abhainn sara dtéir ina cuilithe.
Observe the river before you venture into its currents.

Lakota:
Mni Wiconi
Beatha é uisce.
Water is life.

Cha lhisagh dooinney erbee ve nearagh dy ghoaill-rish e oill tra t'eh er ve camm; cre te agh gra ayns goan
elley dy vel eh ny s'creeney jiu na v'eh jea.
One should not be ashamed to acknowledge one's fault when wrong; what is it but saying in other words
that one is wiser to-day than one was yesterday.

Ta dooiney creeney smooinaght ooilley ny te gra, agh t'an ommidan gra ooilley ny te smooinaght.
A wise man thinks all he says, but a fool says all he thinks.

Ag dul chun dlí leis an ndiabhal is an chúirt i n-ifreann.
Going to the law with the devil and the court is in hell.

Cho sunndach ris an fhiadh,
Cho teoma ri Coibhi Druidh.
As hearty as the stag,
As clever as Coibhi the Druid

Cé gur beag díol dreoilín caithfidh sé a sholáthar.
Little as a wren needs, it must gather it.

Ged is fagus clach do'n lar
Is faigse na sin cobhain Coibhi.
Near though a stone be to the ground,
Still nearer is the help of Coibhi.

Is leor don dreoilín a nead.
The nest is enough for a wren.

Is dóigh le fear na buile gurb é féin fear na céille.
The frenzied man reckons he is the sensible one.

Seachnaíonn súil an ní ná feiceann.
An eye disregards/evades what it does not see.

Bíonn an fhírinne searbh.
Truth is often bitter.

An rud a líonas an tsúil líonann sé an croí.
What fills the eye fills the heart.

Níl tuile dá mhéad nach dtránn.
There is no flood, however great, that does not ebb away.

Ge b'e thig gun chuireadh, suidhidh e gun iarraidh.
Who comes uninvited will sit down unbidden.

Is folamh fuar é teach gan bean.
A house without a woman is empty, cold.

As long as you are standing, give a hand to those who have fallen.
arabic

Beart gan leigheas, foighne is fearr dó.
Patience is the best thing for an incurable situation.

Mian mic a shúil.
A child wants everything they see.

Is faide a théann an dúchas ná an fhoghlaim.
Dúchas goes further than learning.

Goreu amod, cyfiawnder.
Aontú is fearr, cothrom na féinne.
Best agreement, justice.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.
Under the shelter of each other, The People survive.

Trí na chéile a thógtar na cáisléain.
In our togetherness, castles are built.

De réir a chéile a thógtar na caisleáin.
It takes time to build castles.

Maori:
Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi
Le do chiseán is mo chiseán, mairfidh na daoine.
With your basket and my basket the people will live.

Do na daoine atá cróga agus dílis níl a dhath doiligh.
For the people, brave and faithful, nothing is difficult.

It is always worth itemising happiness, there is so much of the other thing in a life, you had better put down the markers for happiness while you can.
Sebastian Barry

Imíonn an tuirse ach fanann an tairbhe.
The tiredness leaves but the profit remains.

An té nach bhfuil láidir ní folair dó a bheith glic.
Whoever doesn't have might/resources must be clever.

Ní thuigeann an sách an seang.
The well-fed does not understand the lean.

Ag duine féin is fearr a fhios cá luíonn an bhróg air.
The wearer best knows where the shoe pinches.

Tobar lachta na n-anbhfann tréith-lag
Bó na mbocht, 's a ndorus aonair.
A well of milk for the weak and prostrate
Cow of the poor, their only door.

Giorraíonn beirt bóthar.
Two people shorten the road.

Ná déan nós is ná bris nós.
Don't make a custom and don't break a custom.

Aithníonn ciaróg ciaróg eile.
One beetle recognises another.

Briseann an dúchais tri shúile an chat.
Breeding will break out in the eyes of a cat.

I dtosach na haicíde is fusa í a leigheas.
It's at the beginning of the disease it is easiest to cure.

Tús maith, leath na hoibre.
Good start, half the work.

An rud a ghoilleas ar an gcroí caithfidh an t-súil é a shileas.
What pains the heart must be washed away with tears.

Ní bhrisfidh siad mé mar tá an fonn saoirse agus saoirse mhuintir na hEireann i mo chroí.Tiocfaidh lá éigin nuair a bheidh an fonn saoirse seo le taispeáint ag daoine go léir na hEireann ansin tchífidh muid eirí na gealaí.

If they aren't able to destroy the desire for freedom, they won't break you. They won't break me because the desire for freedom, and the freedom of the Irish people is in my heart. The day will dawn when all the people of Ireland will have the desire for freedom to show. It is then we'll see the rising of the moon. —Bobby Sands, 5 Bealtaine 1981

"To cry out that the emperor had no clothes on was at least
to pick on one [person] only to the amusement of everyone else;
to declare that almost everyone is dressed in rags is much less likely to be popular."
Alasdair MacIntyre, After Virtue

Anyone with gumption and a sharp mind will take the measure of two things: what's said and what's done.
Seamus Heaney, Beowulf

Where there is ruin, there is hope for a treasure.
Rumi

Ní dhíolann dearmad fiacha.
Debts are not paid by forgetting them.

In nature's economy the currency is not money, it is life.
Vandana Shiva

Many a good argument is ruined by some fool who knows what [they are] talking about.
Marshall McLuhan

The highest function of ecology is understanding consequences.
Frank Herbert, Dune

Bairéin:
Sín do chosa chomh fada is a théann do phluid.
Stretch your legs as far as your blanket goes.

… myth not math is mother tongue.
John Moriarty

“Your own actions are a better mirror of your life than the actions of all your enemies put together.”
Ngugi wa Thiong'o

Marbh le tae agus marbh gan é.
Murdered with tea, murdered without it.

Éist le fuaim na habhann agus gheobhair breac
Listen to the river and you will catch fish

“The four things to be asked of every composition must be asked of this composition, viz., place, and person, and time, and cause of invention. For example:
The place of this composition is great Cork of Munster, and its author is Aniér MacConglinne of the Onaght Glenowra. In the time of Cathal MacFinguine, son of Cúcengairm, or son of Cúcenmáthir, it was made. The cause of its invention was to banish the demon of gluttony that was in the throat of Cathal MacFinguine.

“If you are silent about your pain, they’ll kill you and say you enjoyed it.”
Zora Neale Hurston

Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste, ná Béarla cliste.

Is buaine port ná glór na n-éan,
Is buaine focal ná toice an tsaoil.
A tune is more lasting than the song of the birds,
And a word more lasting than the wealth of the world.

Bíonn súil le muir ach ní bhíonn súil le tír.
There's hope from the ocean but none from the grave

Chonaic mé cheana thú, arsa an cat leis an mbainne te.
I saw you before, as the cat said to the warm milk.

“We are never more (and sometimes less) than the co-authors of our own narratives.”
Alasdair MacIntyre, After Virtue

Tréde ara carthar escara: máin, cruth, innraccus.
Three things for which an enemy is loved: wealth, appearances, fame

Tréde ara miscnigther cara: fogal, dognas, dímainche.
Three things for which a friend is hated: getting too close, keeping too distant,
not being helpful in the way you need.

Coinnichidh na daoine far nach coinnich na cnuic.
The people meet each other but the hills do not.
Casar na daoiní ar a chéile, ach ní chastar na cnuic.
The people meet each other but the hills do not.

The condition of women in a nation is the real measure of its progress.
Ngugi wa Thiong'o

The key to success is sincerity. If you can fake that you've got it made.
George Burns

An áit a bhuil do chroí is ann a thabharfas do chosa thú.
Your feet will bring you to where your heart is.

What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others.
Confucius

You've got to learn to leave the table
When love's no longer being served."
Nina Simone

"I've got one thing to say to you, my boy ... you can't trust the Irish, they are all liars', she said,'liars, and that's what you have to remember, so just don't forget it."
Margaret Thatcher

Behaviour that's admired
is the path to power among people everywhere.
Seamus Heaney, Beowulf

A ddwg w y a ddwg fwy. (sp)
Who steals an egg will steal more.

Aithníonn ciaróg ciaróg eile.
One beetle knows another.

A'bhiast as mutha ag ithe na beiste as lugha.
Big fsh eat little fsh.

An Bhotsuáin:
Diane di a bua!
Na seanfhocail, labhraíonn siad!
The proverbs they speak!

Ní féidir an seanfhocal a shárú.
A proverb cannot be refuted.

The duty of youth is to challenge corruption.
Kurt Ó Cobain

Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.
Audre Lorde

At the foundation of moral thinking lie beliefs in statements the truth of which no further reason can be given.
Alasdair MacIntyre

Plant gwirionedd yw hen ddiarhebion.
The children of truth are old proverbs.

Aithnítear cara i gcruatán.
A friend is known in hardship.

Yoruba
Pai lotun pai losi, t'oju o ba fo, a ko ma wo bai bai ni
Hardship here and there would definitely yield a broken personality.

Ejawo ninu apon tio yo, elogbomi'ila kana
Stop the old and try something new.

Enibama ba esu jeun sibi e a gun
You need a long spoon to dine with the devil.

Ki tan lara were koma ku "HOI"
Even after healing, a man once mad would still shout "HOI" once in a while.58

Igbo
Gidi gidi b ugwu eze. (sp)
Unity is strength.

Oge adighi eche mmadu
Time and tide wait for nobody.

Ihe di woro ogori azuala na ahia.
What was secret is revealed in the market place.

Eze mbe si na ihe ya ji-achiri ihe egwu ya aga njem bu maka ya ezu ndiegwu.
The tortoise said that it always travels with its musical instrument in case it meets other musicians.

An Chipir:
Abo ’n andrebede, o gosmos ullos en dhigos du.
Is leis an té gan náire an domhan ar fad.
Who has no shame owns the whole world.

Nature shrinks as capital grows. The growth of the market cannot solve the very crisis it creates.
Vandana Shiva

We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say ‘It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.
Fred McFeely Rogers

History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived,
but if faced with courage, need not be lived again."
Maya Angelou

If you focus your awareness only upon your own rightness, then you
invite the forces of opposition to overwhelm you."
Frank Herbert

There is little to choose between a person lying in the ditch heavily drunk on rice liquor, and a person heavily drunk on their own 'enlightenment'!
Oda Sesso

It is no measure of health to be well-adjusted to a profoundly sick society.
Jiddu Krishnamurti

Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.
Praise a child and she will blossom.

Íosa mac Muire, Matha 18, An Bíobla Naofa
3 agus dúirt: “Deirim libh go fírinneach, mura gcasa sibh arís chun bheith ar nós na leanaí, ní rachaidh sibh isteach i ríocht na bhflaitheas choíche.

Ní heaspa go díth carad
No lack like the lack of a friend

Louis Riel, July 4, 1885
My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.

Is fearr go mall ná go brách.
Better late than never.

Is maith an scéalaí an aimsir.
Time is a good storyteller.

Afganastánach:
Gan uisce le feiceáil, ná bain díot do bhróga.
Without seeing the water, don’t take off your shoes

Is minic a rinne bromach gioblach capall cumasach.
Many a ragged colt made a noble horse

Ní dhéanfach an saol capall rás d'asal.
All the world would not make a racehorse from an ass

Tréde conaittig fírinne: mess, tomus, cubus.
Trí rud a éilíonn ceartas: breithiúnas, tomhais, consias.
Three things which justice demands: judgment, measure, conscience.

Tréde conaittig brethemnas: gáis, féige, fiss.
Three things which judgment demands: acute insight, clear vision, investigation.

Stories can break the dignity of a people. But stories can also repair that broken dignity.
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

“ESTRAGON: I can't go on like this.
VLADIMIR: That's what you think.”
Samuel Beckett, Waiting for Godot

Our quest for the greater world is a quest for a greater vision of the world we already live in.
John Moriarty

Is fearr bothán biamhar ná caisleán gortach.
A cabin with plenty of food is better than a hungry castle.

Trí gráda coillte túath inna ngói:
gói ríg,
gói shenchada,
gói bretheman.
Three ranks that ruin tribes in their falsehood:
the falsehood of a chief,
of a historian,
of a judge.

Tréde neimthigedar liaig: dígallrae, díainme, comchissi cen ainchiss.
Three things that constitute a physician:
a complete cure, leaving no blemish behind, a painless examination

“I was tired of pretending that I was someone else just to get along with people,
just for the sake of having friendships.”
Kurt Ó Cobain

Maireann an chraobh ar an bhfál ach ní mhaireann an lámh do chuir
The branch lives on the hedge though the hand that planted it be dead.

Inspiration is always a surprising visitor.
John Ó Donohue

Accepting oneself does not preclude an attempt to become better.
Flannery Ó Connor

Is minic a ghearr teanga duine a scornach.
It is often that a person's tongue cut their throat.

Is í an dias is troime is ísle a chromas a ceann.
It is the heaviest ear of grain that bends its head the lowest.

Is teann madra ar a thairseacht féin.
Every dog is bold on its own doorstep.

There's no way around grief and loss: you can dodge all you want, but sooner or later
you just have to go into it, through it, and, hopefully, come out the other side. The world you find there will never be the same as the world you left.
Johnny Cash

Be sure you choose what you believe and know why you believe it, because if you don't choose your beliefs, you may be certain that some belief, and probably not a very credible one, will choose you."
Robertson Davies

Tharraing sé ar bhealach a leasa, a slánaithe, iad.

Is fearr an tsláinte ná na táinte.
Health is better than wealth.

Dligid othar a íarfaigid.
A sick person deserves to be looked after.
Aldfrith, Chief of Northumbria

Trí comartha clúanaigi: búaidriud scél, cluiche tenn, abucht co n-imdergad.
Three ungentlemanly things: interrupting stories, a mischievous game, jesting so as to raise a blush.

The peaceful and serene
Is the Norm of the world.
-Lao Tzu

Ua Kuluma Ke Kanaka I Ke Aloha
It is natural for people to behave in a caring way.
Kanaka Maoli, Hawai'i

Chíonn beirt rud nach bhfeiceann duine amháin.
Two people see a thing that an individual does not see

It wasn't a question of deceit. Just the opposite; he wanted to heat up the truth, to make it burn so hot that you would feel exactly what he felt."
Tim O'Brien

Ar mhaithe leis féin a níos an cat crónán.
The cat purrs to please itself.

D?nan math innearach, màthair na ciste-mine. (sp)
A good dungheap is mother to the meal chest.

Éire i bpáirt, Éire ar lár.
Ireland divided is Ireland laid low.

Tamil, India:
Níl maitheas i bpictiúr de ghurd le cócaireacht.
A picture of a gourd is not useful to cook with.

Ní mhealltar an sionnach faoi dhó.
You won't fool the fox a second time.

It is impossible to capture the essence of [eros] love in writing, only its symptoms remain, the eroticabsorption, the huge disparity between the times together and the times apart, the sense of being excluded.
Edna O'Brien

Bíonn cead cainte ag fear caillte na himeartha.
The one who has lost the match has permission to speak

An té a luíonn le madaí, eiroidh sé le dearnaid.
Who lies down with dogs, gets up with fleas

Capall an tsaoil an grá.
Love makes the world go around.

The heart is the inner face of your life. The human journey strives to make this inner face beautiful. It is here that love gathers within you. Love is absolutely vital for a human life. For love alone can awaken what is divine within you. In love, you grow and come home to your self. When you learn to love and let yourself be loved, you come home to the hearth of your own spirit. You are warm and sheltered.
John Ó Donohue

An Nigéir
Akpa le tome gake menya tsi fe vevie nyenyeo.
Ní thuigeann an t-iasc tábhacht an uisce.
The fish does not understand the importance of water.

Once you see the boundaries of your environment,
they are no longer the boundaries of your environment.
Marshall McLuhan

Ní thig leis an ghobadán an dá thrá a fhreastal.
The sandpiper can not attend two beaches (at once).

Na trí cairde is fearr agus na trí naimhde is measa: tine, gaoth, is uisce.
The three best friends and the three worst enemies: fire, wind, and water

If you want to keep a secret, you must also hide it from yourself.
George Orwell

Hiondúis:
Maireann an saol róghearr le bheith cráite.
There's life, then there's the world.

One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest.
Maya Angelou

Níl aon tóin tinn mar do thóin tinn féin.
There's no sore ass like your own sore ass.

Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin.
There's no fireplace like your own fireplace.

Is rí gach slán.
Is chief each and every health.

Cleachtadh a dhéanann maistreacht.
Practice makes mastery.
[Practice makes permanent, Séamas Grant, Biddy Basketball Camp, Quinshepauge]

Dagbani:
Nan barizi ni tin tula.
Ní thuigeann an marcach go bhfuil an talamh te.
The rider does not know that the ground is hot

Is trom an t-ualach an t-aineaolas!
Ignorance is a heavy burden!

Bíonn chuile dhuine lách go dtéann bó ina gharraí.
Everyone is sociable until a cow invades their garden.

Oileáin Maldíve:
Kalhu geriyakas, hudhu geriyakas, kiru hunnaany hudhukoshe.
Is cuma más geal nó dubh an bhó, bán an bhainne (gan aon agó).
Whether the cow is black or white, the milk is white.

Ní heolas go haontíos.
You must live with a person to know a person.

Maenmar:
Ní airítear blas searbh ach tar éis cogaint tamaillín.
Bitter taste is apparent only after chewing for some time.

Tá mé i mo chónaí i nDún na nGall.
I live in Donegal.

What do you despise? By this are you truly known.
Frank Herbert

Más olc maol is measa mullach.
If it's bad on the flat it's worse at the summit

Kernowek:
Y'n Haf por' cof Gwaf
Sa samhradh, cuimhne ar an ngeimhreadh.
In Summer, remember Winter.

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.
Desmond Tutu

A'bhiast as mutha ag ithe na beiste as lugha.
Big fish eat little fish.

Ní bhíonn saoi gan locht.
No wise person without fault.

Ní bhíonn an rath ach mar a mbíonn an smacht.
There's no flourishing without discipline.

Whenever we engage in consumption or production patterns which take more than we need, we are engaging in violence.
Vandana Shiva

Ná nocht d’fhiacla go bhféadair an greim do bhreith.
Don't bare your teeth until you can bite.

Cúm do chúri leigeadh.sxotish fada other way
Hold back your dog till the deer falls.

Cha tèid nì sam bith san dòrn d?úinte. same
Nothing can get into a closed fist.

Patient people win the day

Why is it that many contemporary male thinkers...repudiate the imperialist legacy of Columbus but affirm dimensions of that legacy by their refusal to repudiate patriarchy?
Bell Hooks

Find your own limitations, yes, but don’t limit yourself with false modesty.
Anne McCaffrey

Is folamh, fuar teach gan bean.
Empty and cold is the house without a woman

An t-ualach is mó ar an gcapall is míne.
The heaviest load on the gentlest horse.

Dá bfeacin se'n la sin bo seásta bfeic m'intin

Trí caindle forosnat cach ndorcha: fír, aicned, ecna.
Three candles that illumine every darkness: truth, nature, knowledge.

Ní sia gob an ghé na gob an ghandail.
The goose's beak is no longer than the gander's.

Trí ní is deacair a thuiscint; intleacht na mban, obair na mbeach, teacht agus imeacht na taoide.
Three things hardest to understand; the intellect of women, the work of the bees, the coming and going of the tide

Ná glac pioc comhairle gan comhairle ban.
Never take advice without a woman's guidance.

Dligid fir fortacht
Truth should be supported

Tosach eolais imchomarc
Inquiry is the beginning of knowledge

Ciall agus míchiall — dís ná gabhann le chéile.
Sense and nonsense — two which do not go together

When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.
Maya Angelou

Molann an obair an fear.
The work praises the man.

Doras feasa fiafraí.
The door to wisdom is to ask questions.

Ní théann dlí ar riachtanas.
Necessity overrides the law.

Technique has taken over the whole of civilization. Death, procreation, birth all submit to technical efficiency and systemization.
Jacques Ellul

"Our expectations for technology have become magical and our use of it increasingly irrational." — Richard Stivers

Putóga dubha na bliana ó Nollaig go Lá Fhéile Bríde.
The darkest part of the year, from Christmas until the Feast of St. Bridgit.

A rising tide lifts all boats.
John FitzGerald Kennedy

Ní fhanann trá le fear mall.
An ebb(tide) does not wait for a slow man

“Coiglim an tine seo mar choigleann Críost cáidh;
Muire ar mhullach an tí, agus Bríd ina lár;
An t-ochtar ainglí is tréine i gCathair na nGrás
Ag cumhdach an ti seo ‘s a mhuintir thabhairt slán.

I save this fire, as noble Christ saves;
Mary on the top of the house and St. Brigid in its centre;
the eight strongest angels in Heaven
preserving this house and keeping its people safe.

Tréde immifoilnge báis do gáeth: fúasnad, ferg, mesca.
Three things that make a wise man foolish: quarreling, anger, drunkenness.

Trí doruis a n-aichnither fír:
frecra n-ainmnetach, ái fossad, sóud fri fíadnu.
Three doors through which truth is recognized:
a patient answer, a firm pleading, appealing to witnesses.

Ní mar a shíltear a bhítear.
Things aren’t as they seem

An té nach mbeireann ar an ngnó beireann an gnó air.
They who do not get a grip on the business, the business gets a grip on them.

As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison.
Nelson Mandela

An té nach nglacann comhairle glacfaidh sé comhrac.
Whoever will not accept peaceful counsel must accept strife.

You're never more alive than when you're almost dead.
Tim O'Brien

Sláinte chuig na fir agus go maire na mná go deo.
Health to the men and may the women live forever.

An rud nach mbaineann duit ná bain dó
Don't interfere with anything that doesn't concern you

Am mac mar an t-athair.
Such father, such son.

Drochubh, drochéan
Bad egg, bad bird.

Le bíobla i lámh amháin agus an claíomh sa lámh eile
With a bible in one hand and a sword in the other

Ní mharóidh tú riamh ár dtoil don saoirse, don saoirse
You'll never kill our will to be free

There are three states of legality in [colonial] Irish law. There is all this stuff here under "That's grand"; then it moves into "Ah, now, don't push it"; and finally to "Right! You're taking the piss."
Dara Ó Briain

Imperialism creates the illusion of wealth as far as the masses are concerned. It usually serves to hide the fact that the ruling classes are gobbling up the natural resources of the home territory in an improvident manner and are otherwise utilizing the national wealth largely for their own purposes. Eventually the general public is called upon to pay for all of this, frequently after the military machine can no longer maintain external aggression."
Jack D. Forbes

A really efficient totalitarian state would be one in which the all-powerful executive of political bosses and their army of managers control a population of slaves who do not have to be coerced, because they love their servitude."
Aldous Huxley

Through a web of laws, regulations, and informal rules, all of which are powerfully reinforced by social stigma, they are confined to the margins of mainstream society and denied access to the mainstream economy."
Michelle Alexander

Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing."
George Orwell

El perro del hortelano que ni come ni deja comer
The keeper of the orchard's dog, that neither eats, nor will let anyone eat

They laugh at me because I'm different; I laugh at them because they're all the same.
Kurt Ó Cobain

From Grandpa Alex Brown, son of An Gorta Mór Spalpeen,
Rough and Ready Road, Seneca land
A rich farmer was on his death bed.
He told his wife to take his bill fold
up on the roof on the house
and put it under a shingle
so when he went to heaven
he could pick it up as he went by.
A few days after his death his wife
went up on the roof and looked under the shingle.
Sure enough the bill fold was there.
"Just as I thought," clucked his wife,
"he's gone to the other place."

They laugh 'cause they know they're untouchable
Not because what I said was wrong
— Sinéad O'Connor, Emperor's New Clothes

Cuir síoda ar ghabhar ach is gabhar i gcónaí é.
Dress a goat in silk and it still remains a goat.

Governments, if they endure, always tend increasingly toward aristocratic forms. No government in history has been known to evade this pattern. And as the aristocracy develops, government tends more and more to act exclusively in the interests of the ruling class -- whether that class be hereditary royalty, oligarchs of financial empires, or entrenched bureaucracy.
Frank Herbert

Ní fáidh fear ina dhúchas, ar a thairseach féin.

His experience with Household Finance had disabused him of any hope that the government would intercede to prevent rich corporations from doing bad things to poor people."
— Michael Lewis, The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine

There's something outside of me—call it my DNA, my ancestral drive, my unconscious; call it collective suggestion, mass hysteria or propaganda—but I am ultimately responsible for making the choice to do good or evil."
— Richard Kearney

Ní neart go cur le chéile.
No mightiness/resilience without togetherness.

The poets and writers responded in a language and idiom that could not be interpreted by the heathen invaders. It gives the poor Kerry masters, Piaras Feiritéar, Corca Dhuibhne, Geoffrey O'Donoghue of the Glens, who carried on Feiritéar's work after he was hanged, outside Killarney as you probably know, in 1653. Then Gneeveguilla gave us the great Aoghán Ó Rathaille (1675-1728), followed by the abundantly talented rascal Eoghan Rua Ó Súilleabháin (1748-84)"
Bernard O'Donoghue

Is annamh earrach gan fuacht.
Seldom is Spring without cold.

Is fheàrr teine beag a gharas na teine mòr a loisgeas.
The little fire that warms is better than the big fire that burns.

Gach dalta mar oiltear.
Every pupil is as trained.

Being able to resolve conflicts peacefully is one of the greatest strengths we can give our children.
Fred McFeely Rogers

An Phalaistín:
El-faaDi yekhli lal-malyaan.
Géilleann folamh do lán.
The empty gives the way to the full.

Ta cooinaghtyn yn chree ny share na cooinaghtyn yn chione.
Tá cuimhne an chroí níos fearr ná cuimhne an chinn.
The remembrance of the heart is better than the remembrance of the head.

Múineann gá seift.
Need teaches plan.

Gheibheann cos ar siúl rud éigin.
A moving leg gets something.

Tecosca Cormaic (‘The Instructions of Cormac’)
“Let him make make known every clear judgement
Abundance of wine and mead,
Let him utter every truth,
for it is through the truth of the ruler that God gives all that.”

Ná lig don choire cur thairis.
Don’t let the cauldron boil over.

In our prophecies it is told that we are now at the crossroads: Either unite spiritually as a global nation, or be faced with chaos, disasters, diseases, and tears from our relatives' eyes.
Lakota Keeper of Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe Chief Arvol Looking Horse

Luighidh iolar ar uathadh.
Many overpower few.

Ní féidir an dúchas a cheilt.

Tréde faillsiges cach ndagfheras: dán, gaisced, crésine.
Three things that show every brave man: competence, prowess, piety

It is increasingly clear that the fate of the universe will come to depend more and more on individuals as the bungling of bureaucracy permeates every corner of our existence.
Edna O'Brien

"It's when forgiveness becomes impossible, utterly impossible because you've heard these terrible things and you relate it to your enemy…only then can something happen…can imagination and trust and faith in a new story of some kind, made from the ingredients of the old, leap into existence."
Richard Ó Kearney

Ailiu iath nErend
I invoke the spirit of Ireland

Gan cholt for criabh ceireine
gan geart fearbú fora n-asad aithrinni
gan adhbhai fhir iar ndrúbaí díasoirchí
gan díl daimhe reisse ropsain Breisse
Ní fil a mhaín trá Breisse

‘Without food quickly on a dish,
Without fresh cow's milk on which a calf grows,
Without habitation for people after darkness remains,
Without paying a company of storytellers--let that be Bres's condition.
Bress's prosperity is no more.
Coirpre mac Etain

An Pheirs:
Cuardaigh eolas ón gcliabhán go cré na cille.
Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave.

Bíonn gach tosú lag.
Every beginning is weak

ba breithem, ba coimgnid cain
he was a judge, he was a fair synchroniser

We are more than transformed groceries.
John Ó Moriarty

“He wanted to meet in the real world the unsubstantial image which his soul so constantly beheld.”
James Ó Joyce

Fear not the path of Truth for the lack of People walking on it.
Robert FitzGerald Ó Kennedy

Cionnus bheadh an t-ubhaillía acht mar bheadh an t-abhaillin?
How could the apple be but as the appletree?

Trí ái nad eplet faill: ái dochuind, 7 dochraite, 7 anfis.
Three causes that do not die with neglect:
the causes of an imbecile, and of oppression, and of ignorance.

Ag creachadh agus ag bánú na tíre
Plundering and laying waste the country.

Fear na bó faoina heireaball.
The cow’s owner must go under her tail.

Then the noble, valiant
descendants of Eóghan arose,
and arranged themselves
into a furious, steady, brave
battalion of champions.
— Caithréim Chellacháin Chaisil

Níor thréig sé a dhúchas.Tobar lachta na n-anbhfann tréith-lag
Bó na mbocht, ’s a ndorus aonair.
A well of milk for the weak and prostrate
Cow of the poor, their only door
Aoghán Ó Rathaille

Maireann croí éadrom i bhfad.
A light heart lives long.

Tréde neimthigedar liaig: dígallrae, díainme, comchissi cen ainchiss.
Three things that constitute a physician: a complete cure, leaving no blemish behind, a painless examination.

Tá ceol againn.
Tá damhsa againn.
Tá teanga againn.
Faoi chuan caoin, éirigí.

Proactive, female creativity and power is thus seen, in Irish ancestral culture, to be the major source from which emerges both the general form of the physical universe and the security and well-being of the social order in times of stress.
Ollamh Gearóid Ó Crualaoich

Déan an fál nó íocfaidh tú foghail.
Make the fence or you will pay for the plunder

An gad is giorra don scornach is túisce is ceart a scaoileadh.
The knot nearest the throat is the the one to release first.

[E]ach generation should pay to its successors the debt it owes to its forerunners; that thus, by spending itself for the benefit of its children, the human race ensures the progressive development of all.
St. James Ó Connolly

And if there ever is gonna be healing
There has to be remembering
And then grieving
So that there then can be forgiving
There has to be knowledge and understanding
Blessed Martyr Sinéad O'Connor

Lesotho:
Leboela le a ja.
Tá bua i mbuansheasmhacht.
Perseverance pays.

Gach tráth a rinne Fir Mhumhan iarracht sos a thógáil
is ansin a ghríosaigh Mogh Roith iad brú ar aghaidh gan stad gan staonadh
Whenever the Men of Munster tried to stop,
it was then that Mogh Roith became most insistent that they carry on.

It is riches you love, and not people; as for us, when we lived, it was people we loved.
The Lament of the Cailleach Bheara

Ní saoirse go saoirse na mban.
No freedom exists until all the women are free and equal.

Bíonn ciúon ciontach
Silent are guilty.

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.
James Baldwin, "I Am Not Your Negro"

Lúcás 10 An Bíobla Naofa
36 Cé acu den triúr sin, do bharúil, ba chomharsa don té a tharla i líon na robálaithe?” 37 Dúirt sé:
“An té a rinne an trócaire air.” Dúirt Íosa leis: “Imigh leat, agus déan féin mar an gcéanna.”

Rob fir firthar, rob bríg brígther
May it be a truth that is confirmed: may it be a power that is enforced.

Sean Phaidir Mhná Inis Bó Finne
Beannacht na Maighdine Mhuire
Réalt na Mara oraibh
Agus ar mur mbád agus
Go gcuirfidh Sí agus a Mac
Slán na bhaile sibh arís.

Lá Féil Nollaig 2023 (Gregorian) shona daoibh, mo chlann, mo Fhine Gaelach.